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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

DEFINING PROBLEMS. SHAPING SOLUTIONS.

Recent Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Impact of Extended Care on Outcomes at 21

Mark E. Courtney, Nathanael J. Okpych, and
Sungeun (Ethan) Park

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

Purpose

- Share a summary of findings on outcomes for youth transitioning to adulthood from foster care in California through age 21
- Assess the relationships between the amount of time youth remained in extended foster care and selected outcomes
- Previous Analysis¹
 - Selected outcomes measured at second youth survey (age 19)
- Current Analysis
 - Selected outcomes measured at third youth survey (age 21)
 - Two analytic approaches used to evaluate the impact of EFC
 - State administrative data
 - Youth longitudinal surveys

¹ Courtney, M. E., & Okpych, N. J. (2017). *Memo from CalYOUTH: Early findings on the relationship between extended foster care and youths' outcomes at age 19*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Overview of the CalYOUTH Study

Evaluation of the impact of California Fostering Connections to Success Act (AB 12) on outcomes for foster youth

CalYOUTH Study includes:

- Longitudinal study of young people in CA foster care making the transition to adulthood
- Periodic surveys of caseworkers serving young people in CA foster care
- Analysis of government program administrative data

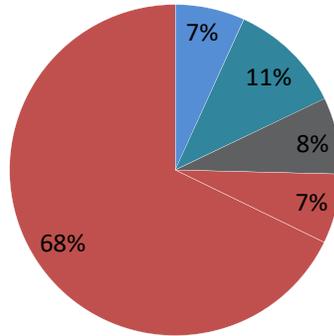
Youth Surveys: Data Collection and Response Rate

- **Wave 1 Survey Period (age 17)**
 - April 2013 to October 2013
 - 51 counties included in final sample
 - Youth eligible for study $n = 763$
 - Completed interviews $n = 727$ (response rate = 95.3%)
- **Wave 2 Survey Period (age 19)**
 - March 2015 to December 2015
 - Youth eligible for study $n = 724$
 - Completed interviews $n = 611$ (response rate = 84.1%)
- **Wave 3 Survey Period (age 21)**
 - *March 2017 to December 2017*
 - *Youth eligible for study $n = 721$*
 - *Completed interviews $n = 616$ (response rate = 84.7%)*

Stay tuned!
Wave 4, 2019, Age 23

Foster Care Status

Age at Discharge
(n=614)



■ 17 or younger ■ 18 ■ 19 ■ 20 ■ 21



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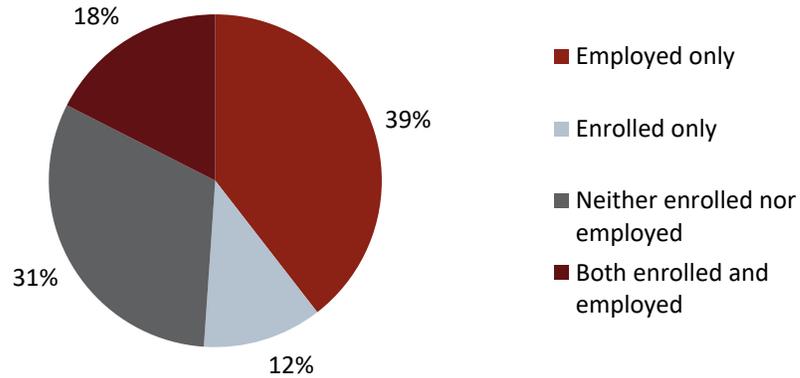
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Youth's Connections to Positive Social Institutions

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Connected to School or Work (n=613)¹

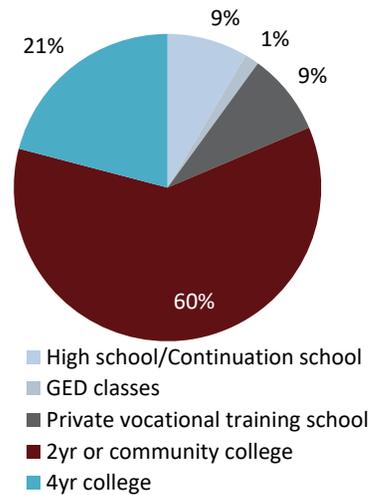


¹ Three youths were not asked these questions during the interview.

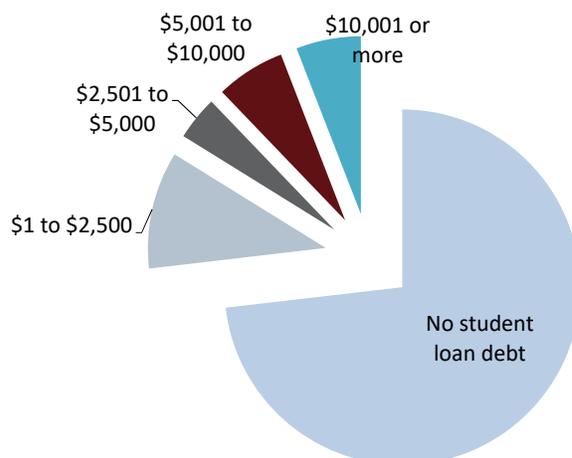
Education Status and Enrollment

- 80% of youth had a high school diploma or equivalency certificate
- 29% of youth were currently enrolled
- Among those enrolled, 81% were in college

Type of School Enrolled in (n=161)



College Student Loan Debt (n=293)



About 12% of youth had \$5,000 or more in student loan debt

¹ Includes both youth who were enrolled at Wave 3, and youth who were enrolled since their last interview.

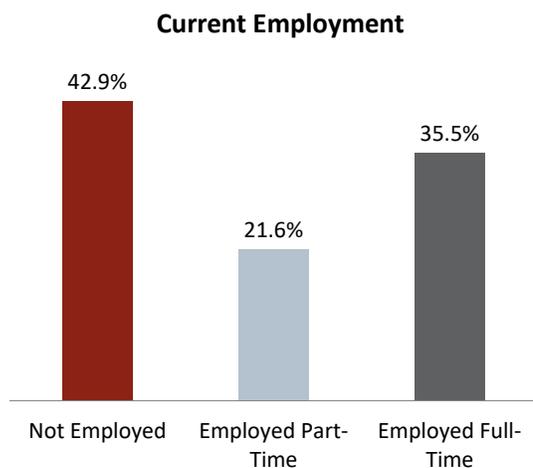
College Involvement (n=293)¹

	n	%
Involvement in campus support program for F.Y.		
Involved most of college	89	33.7
Involved some of college	39	12.6
Involved for just a short while	36	11.9
College offers program but was never involved	51	17.2
Not sure if a program is offered	76	24.6
Involvement in other college activities		
Tutoring	101	39.4
EOPS or Student Support Services	146	58.0
Academic advising	111	39.2
Meeting with professors /TAs outside class	154	54.3

¹ Includes both youth who were enrolled at Wave 3, and youth who were enrolled since their last interview.

Employment ($n=612$)

- 88% of youth reported ever having a job
- 57% were currently employed
- Among youth not in school, 56% were currently employed
- Among all unemployed youth, most want a job (82%)



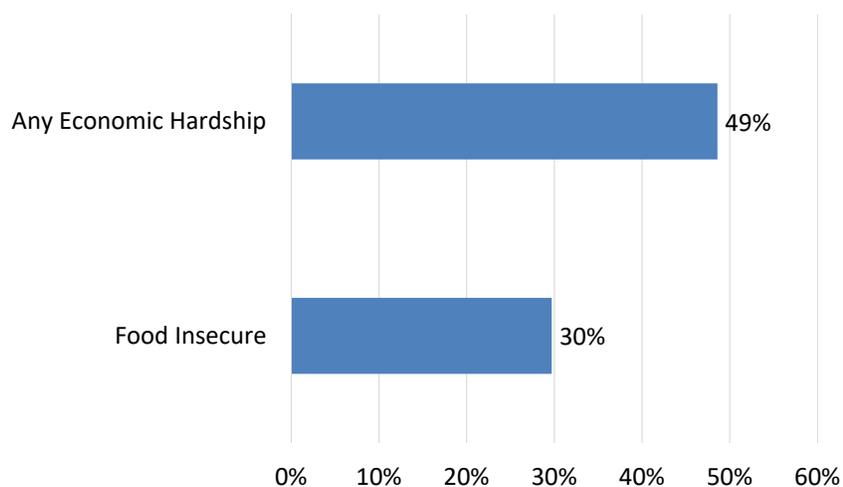
Current Employment and Earnings among Youth Working 10+ Hrs/Week ($n = 325$)

	n	%
Number of current jobs		
One job	264	80.0
Two or more jobs	61	20.0
Number of hours worked per week at main job		
10 to 19 hours	30	8.4
20 to 34 hours	94	30.5
35 to 39 hours	35	11.4
40 hours	106	31.0
More than 40 hours	57	18.7
Average hourly wage at main job (Mean (SD))		\$12.48 (\$3.43)

Assets

- About 56% of youth ($n=342$) reported that they had a checking, savings, or a money market account
- Of those with an account, average balance in all accounts is \$2,894 (median= \$1,000)
- 47% of youth said they own a vehicle

Economic Hardship and Food Insecurity in Past 12 Months





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Living Arrangements and Homelessness

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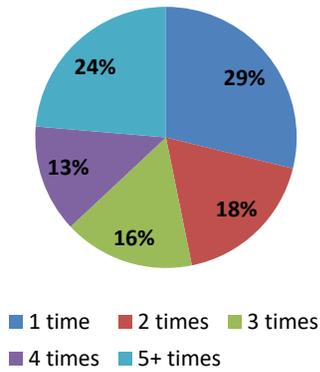
Where Are Youth Living? ($n = 616$)

	<i>n</i>	%
Own place or own room (apartment, house, trailer, a motel, hotel or single room, etc.)	284	44.3
Home of birth parent(s)	34	6.5
Home of another relative(s)	94	17.5
Home of spouse/partner	52	8.0
Home of a friend or friends	43	7.0
Home of former foster parent(s)	22	3.3
Transitional Housing Placement (THP-Plus)	27	4.4
Group quarters (residential treatment center, dormitory, jail, prison, hospital, rehab facility, etc.)	20	2.7
Homeless (have no regular place to stay)	19	2.9
Other	21	3.6

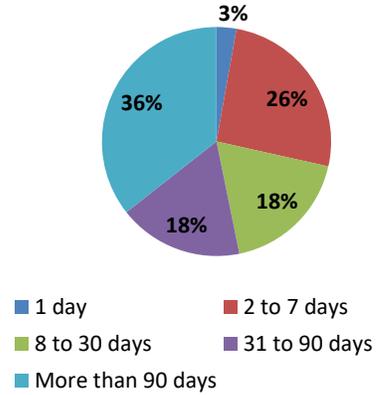
How Many Youth Have Experienced Homelessness? (n = 616)

- About 1 in 4 youth (24.6%) had ever been homeless since their last interview

Number of times homeless since last interview (n=148)

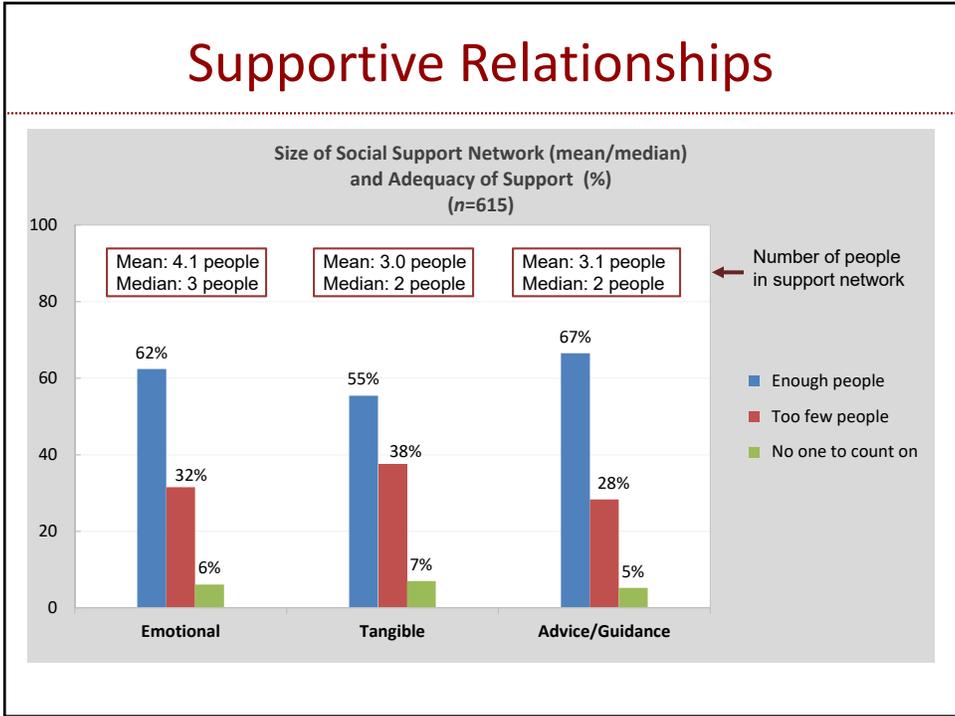


Total days homeless since last interview (n=148)

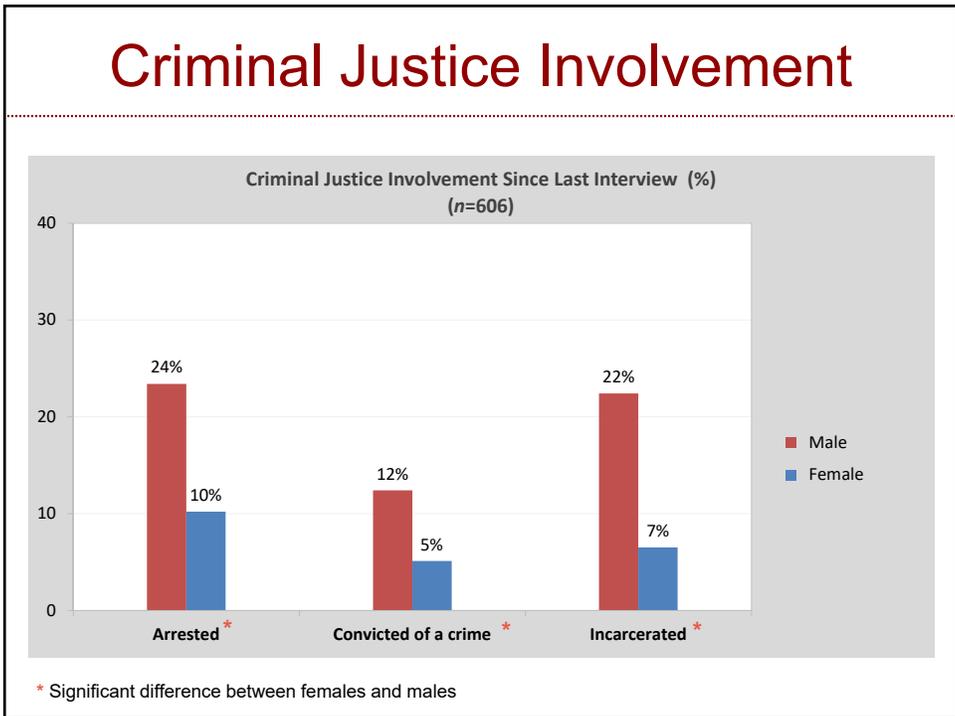


It's More than Just Survival: Youth's Health and Well-Being

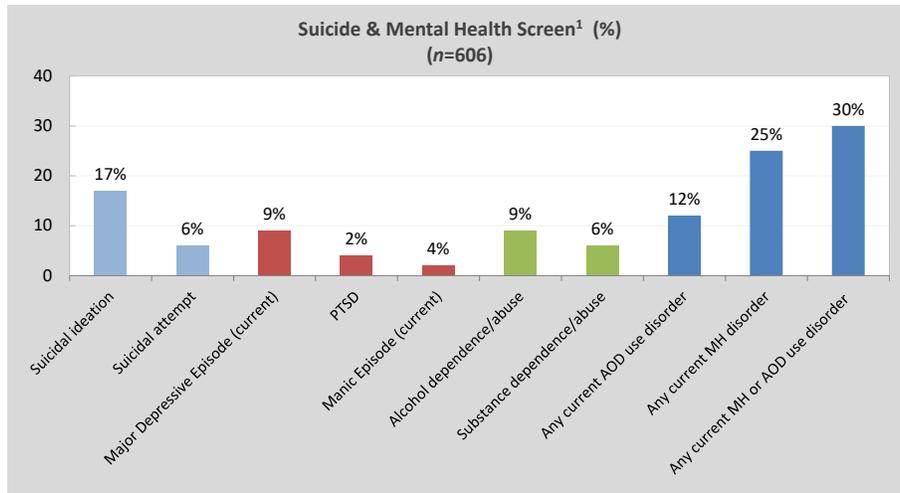
Supportive Relationships



Criminal Justice Involvement

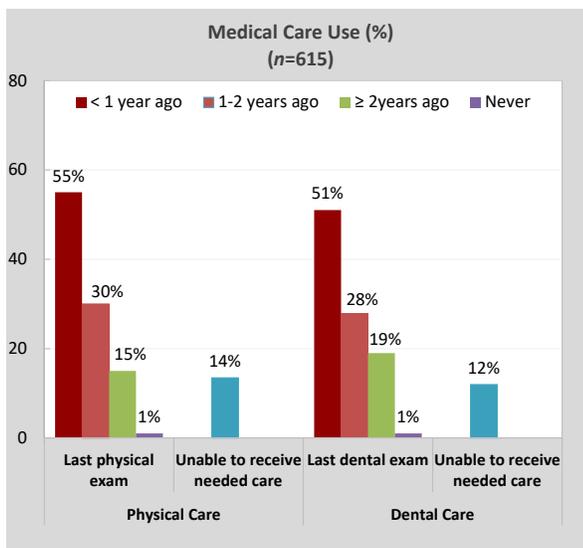


Behavioral Health



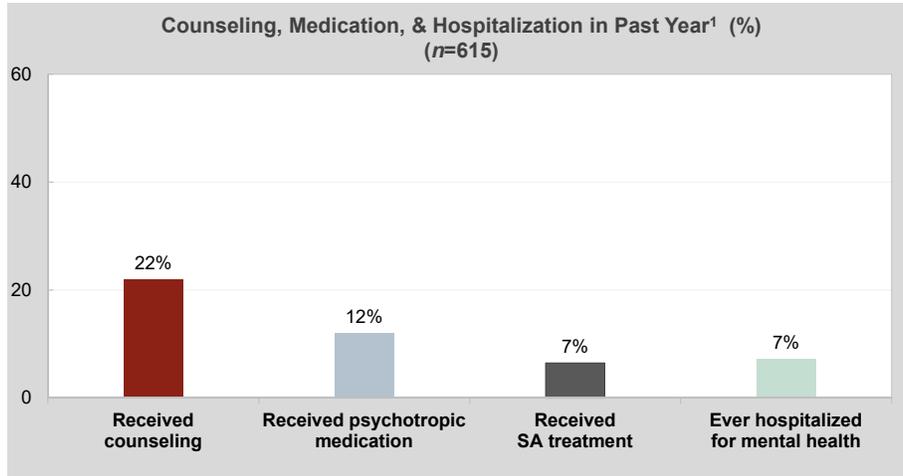
¹ Suicidal ideation and suicide attempt were assessed "since last interview."

Health Services & Insurance



- 14% of youth said they were unable to receive needed physical care
- 12% of youth said they were unable to receive needed dental care
- Most youth reported having medical insurance
 - Health insurance: 89%
 - Dental insurance: 78%

Medication & Hospitalization



- Hospitalized for any reason since last interview: 31%

¹ Counseling, psychotropic medication, and SA treatment was "in the past year." Mental health hospitalization was "since last interview."



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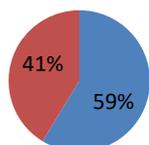
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Pregnancy, Parenting, and Romantic Relationships

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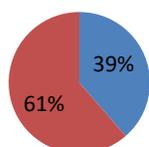
Pregnancy History (Females) (n=376)

Ever been pregnant



■ Yes ■ No

Ever given birth



■ Yes ■ No ■

- Since the last interview...
 - 41% of females had become pregnant
 - 29% of females gave birth
- Among females who got pregnant since last interview (n=150)...
 - 45% wanted to get pregnant
 - 34% did not want to get pregnant
 - 31% were not seen by a doctor or nurse during their first trimester

Children and Parenting

Parents (n=193)	Males (n=38; 17.1%)		Females (n=155; 41.3%)	
	n	%	n	%
Number of living children				
1 child	30	77.1	106	67.7
2 children	7	21.3	39	25.5
3 children	1	1.6	10	6.8
Respondent lives with all children **	21	57.0	128	82.6
At least one child is a dependent of the court	2	7.2	17	12.0

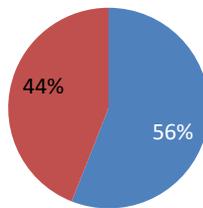
** Statistically significant difference ($p < .01$)

Marriage & Romantic Relationships

- 6.4% of youth were married

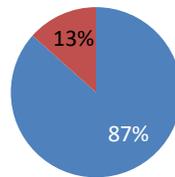
Among youth who were not married ($n=578$):

Currently in a romantic relationship



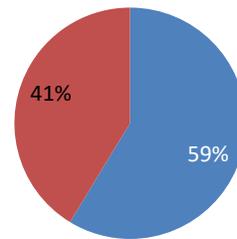
■ Yes ■ No

Relationship with current partner ($n=330$)



■ Steady basis
■ Not on a steady basis

Lives with partner ($n=317$)



■ Yes ■ No



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Relationships between Extended Care and Youths' Outcomes

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Analytic Approaches, Data, & Sample

Analytic Approach	Data Source	Sample	Description
1	California CWS/CMS	Over 40,000 Youths	<p>Data linked to college attendance, employment, earnings, and need-based public food assistance</p> <p>Youth in care least 6 months sometime after 16th birthday (between 2006-2015)</p> <p>Youth turned 18 before or after AB12</p>
2	CalYOUTH longitudinal surveys	616 Youths	<p>Data drawn from three waves of interviews</p> <p>Youth between 16.75 and 17.75 years old at the end of 2012 and had been in care for at least 6 months</p> <p>Youth turned 18 after AB12</p> <p>727 Wave 1 respondents, present analyses restricted to youth who completed the first and third interview waves ($n = 616$)</p>

Analysis and Study Methods

EFC was evaluated by estimating the impact that a year in extended care had on each of the outcomes

- Instrumental variable approach used for models leveraging administrative data
- Several types of statistical models used with longitudinal youth surveys (based on measure of outcome)
 - E.g., Instrumental variable, linear probability model, OLS
- Controlled for a wide range of youth-level and county-level characteristics

Domain Areas with Impacts

Domain	Each additional year in extended foster care ¹ :
Education	Increased the probability that youth completed a high school credential by about 8%
	Increased their expected probability of enrolling in college by 10–11%
Employment	Increased number of quarters youth were employed between 18 and 21 by .6 quarters
Assets	Increased amount of money youth had in bank accounts by about \$404
Hardships	Decreased receipt of need-based public food assistance by more than \$700
	Decreased odds of an additional economic hardship between 17-21 by about 12%
	Decreased odds of being homeless or couch-surfing between 17-21 by about 28%
Social Support	Increased odds youth described professionals as source of social support by about 42%
Family Formation	Decreased odds that youth became pregnant (females) or impregnated a female (males) between 17-21 by about 28%
Criminal Justice	Decreased odds that youth had been arrested between 17-21 by about 41%
	Decreased odds that youth had been convicted of a crime between 17-21 by about 40%

¹ Results displayed are from the administrative data analyses and the youth survey analyses that found statistically significant ($p < .05$) relationships between extended foster care and listed outcomes.

Outcome Domains Where Statistically Significant Impacts Were Not Found

Outcomes not found to be significantly associated with the number of years in extended care:

- College persistence
- Number of semesters completed (among college entrants)
- Earnings between ages 18-21
- Food insecurity
- Physical and behavioral health
- Victimization

Limitations

- Data limitations
 - E.g., Employment and public assistance data collects only work/assistance in CA
- Longitudinal survey analysis only includes post-AB12 youth
 - May be differences between youth who spent more/less time in EFC that are not accounted for in statistical models
 - Some outcomes are related to EFC eligibility requirements (chicken-and-egg problem)
- Both Analyses use generic sets of control variables
- Still relatively early in EFC implementation

Conclusions

- Findings from present analysis reinforce findings from earlier analysis
- Findings thus far are encouraging
 - EFC appears to have positive impact several domains, including education, employment, savings, hardships, pregnancy, CJ involvement, social support
- Some future directions
 - Harness new data (e.g., criminal justice; vital stats on birth and deaths)
 - Explore impact beyond age 21 (e.g., to 23)
 - Explore between-county differences
 - More nuanced approach to investigating each outcome
 - Examine *how* EFC affects outcomes (mediators)

For more information...

CaLYOUTH report on outcomes at 21:

<https://www.chapinhall.org/research/cal youth-wave3/>

CaLYOUTH report on extended care and outcomes at 21:

<https://www.chapinhall.org/research/improved-outcomes-at-age-21-for-youth-in-extended-foster-care/>

CALYOUTH IN THE LOOP

Foster Youth perspectives // CaLYOUTH Study results

About CalYOUTH in the Loop

- **Outreach strategy** testing surveys and other communications methods
- Collects feedback / reactions to the **CalYOUTH Transitions to Adulthood Study**
- **Objective: Build a feedback loop** between TAY from foster care and researchers / stakeholders / service providers

How do we collect feedback?

www.CalYouthInTheLoop.org

Speak Up!

The latest wave of results has just been published. Learn how youth across California have been impacted by extended foster care. Add your voice and ideas to make and impact!

5-min Online Survey

TAKE THE SURVEY

At our Website

WAVE 3: How you can help

- Connect CYL with your network of youth to seek their feedback
- Share our surveys, website, and other materials
- Tell us what you'd like to learn from this project
- Youth who participate could be compensated
- [All information would remain confidential](#)

CALYOUTH IN THE LOOP

CONTACT

Laurie Kappe, President
i.e. communications
LKappe@iecomm.org



Lilia Granillo, Associate
CaLYOUTH in the Loop Coordinator
LGranillo@iecomm.org

